



Defendants who commit these crimes are frequently homeless and may struggle with alcohol or drug addiction and mental illness. Our traditional criminal justice model does not and cannot address these issues. Relying on jail as the sole sanction does not address the underlying problems that drive recidivism by this population, and creates cost with little or no result.

These defendants are a part of our community and are challenged by the most difficult of life circumstances, many suffer mental illness. The community is affected by this situation in many ways, and in a sense both the community and the defendant are victims. The Community Court can be an effective alternative within the justice system, but should only be a part of the larger community response to this problem.

Mesa Municipal Court  
250 E 1st Ave  
Mesa AZ 85210

June 2018

# MESA COMMUNITY COURT



***"A nation's greatness is measured  
by how it treats its weakest members."***

***- Mahatma Ghandi***

## WELCOME TO

## MESA COMMUNITY COURT

Connecting defendants to the resources they need



Mesa Community Court serves chronic justice system offenders who commit low level crimes, fail to comply with court orders, or who fail to appear for Court. These offenders can be more effectively rehabilitated through alternative strategies. The Mesa Community Court is intended to provide a combined response of services needed by the defendant, and

a mitigation of sanctions based on the progress of the defendant.

The Mesa Community Court recognizes that low level offenses are rooted in social circumstances, such as homelessness, mental health issues, unemployment, and chemical dependency. The response to these issues requires an extensive collaborative effort by the range of community resources. The Community Court serves to bring together that combination of resources and services suited to the defendant's needs and the oversight of the court.



### ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

- ✓ Community justice services
- ✓ Homeless, unemployment, chemical dependency, mental health services
- ✓ Other community services and referrals available

## Community Services

## Collaborative Effort & Outreach community resources

Broad based eligibility

The Mesa Community Court has broad based eligibility and is not offense specific. In other words, any recognition by law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, or judges of underlying social problems as primary contributors to the offense may refer the case to Community Court.

The Court will operate a special docket to isolate these cases so the defendant can be connected to appropriate resources. At the time of arraignment, the defendant's first court appearance, the case may be deferred to allow time for evaluating the defendant's circumstances and coordinating appropriate services. As defendants engage in communicating with their services, the prosecutor will consider a possible dismissal based on each case's circumstances and progress.

**Community Court is conducted on  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
from 2:00 – 5:00 PM in Courtroom #202**